

pressions, and two of fossil wood from Gulgong. Surveyor's mark cut in a native apple tree, on the Macintyre River, and overgrown by new wood $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick in eight years.

The SECRETARY read a paper on "New Species of Tasmanian Antechini and Mus," by Edmund T. Higgins, M.R.C.S., England, F.L.S., and William F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that some incidental reference had already been made to the proposed establishment of an Australasian Geographical Society, of which some of the Fellows present had seen notices in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The scheme was first mooted by a committee of the Royal Society of New South Wales; but it had been thought advisable to found the institution on a wider basis, in order to secure the co-operation of all the Australasian colonies in furtherance of the objects of the new Society. These are briefly stated to be "the advancement of geographical science and the study of the physical and commercial geography of the world, more especially that of Australasia. The society would fill up a great gap in the education of the people, and public lectures would be given on all countries illustrative of their commerce, productions and industries." He (Mr. Stephens) thought he might say that although it would be premature to discuss the matter until the constitution, objects, and mode of procedure of the society were more fully defined, there would be no difference of opinion among the Fellows present as to the importance of the subject, and that further information would be gladly received.

Some conversation in favour of the proposed society followed the remarks of the Chairman, reference being made to the prevailing want of geographical knowledge of this group of colonies, particularly in the Mother Country.

Mr. C. H. GRANT then moved, "That the thanks of the meeting be accorded to the authors of the paper read, and to the donors of the various presentations."

Dr. PERKINS seconded the motion, and referred to the numerous additions to the museum, and especially to the varied collection of mineral specimens from N.S.W. presented by Dr. Barnard.

The motion having been unanimously agreed to the proceedings terminated.

JUNE, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 12th June, C. H. Grant, Esq., in the chair.

The following gentlemen, who had been previously nominated by the Council, were balloted for and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society, viz., Captain Shortt, R.N., Mr. William Humphrey Page, Bengal Civil Service, and Mr. James Fincham, C.E.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Barnard) brought forward the following returns for the past month, viz.:—

1. Number of visitors to Museum :—

On Sundays, 1,387 ; on week days, 425 ; total 1,812.

2. Ditto to Gardens, total, 4,467.

3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens :—

From Messrs. Shepherd and Co., Sydney, seeds of 18 species of eucalypti.

From the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, seeds of 24 species of palms.

From Baron Von Mueller, 150 packets seeds.

From Mrs. R. P. Harris, 30 packets seeds from the Botanic Gardens, Saharunpore, India.

From Mr. J. Smith, Victoria, 12 plants.

From Messrs. Vilmorin and Co., Paris, 5 packets seeds.

4. Plants sent from Gardens :—

To Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, 1 case assorted plants.

5. Books and periodicals received.

6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorology :—

1. From Captain Shortt, Government Observer. Table of observations at Hobart for May.

2. Table of rainfall at 13 stations in Tasmania.

The following are the results of the Hobart observations for May :—
Barometer.—Mean : 29·830in.

Thermometer.—Means : Max., 56·6; min., 42·2; dry, 50·7; wet, 47·4.

Humidity.—Dew point, 44·1; elastic force of vapour, ·289; humidity, ·781.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 12; amount collected, 1·70in.

Clouds.—Mean daily amount, 6·4; (scale, 0—10).

Wind.—Mean force, 1·8; (scale, 0—12). Prevailing direction, N.W. and south.

Remarks.—Rain on 12 days; the heaviest fall on any one day was 0·56in., registered at 9 a.m. on 27th. Highest temperature in shade, 69·2 on the 5th; the lowest, 34·8, on the night of the 13th. Highest reading of barometer, 30·476 at 9 p.m. of the 11th; the lowest, 29·326 at 3 p.m. of the 20th. Light winds from south and N.W. Snow on Mount Wellington on 8th and 18th. From the 5th of the month fogs have been very prevalent. Shocks of earthquake were felt at Gould's Country on the 17th, 18th, 28th, and 29th. They have also been felt at different places between the parallels of 41 and 42 S., and to the eastward of Longford. Some of the shocks have been reported as very severe. 2·30 inches of rain fell at Gould's Country in 6 hours on the 6th.

Rainfall in Tasmania, May, 1883 :—

Southport, rain fell on 18 days; amount 3·46.

Hobart City „ 12 „ „ 1·70.

Hobart Bot. Gardens 8 „ „ 1·58.

Oatlands „ 5 „ „ 1·38.

Fingal „ 6 „ „ 1·74.

Falmouth „ 8 „ „ 1·50.

Launceston „ 12 „ „ 1·86.

Low Head „ 7 „ „ 1·39.

Mt. Bischoff „ 21 „ „ 4·05.

Circular Head „ 15 „ „ 5·68.

Gould's Country 7 „ „ 4·75.

Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during May :—

10th. First medlar ripe.

22nd. *Calycanthus præcox* commencing to flower.

24th. *Photinia serrulata*, ditto.

26th. *Diosma alba*, ditto.

27th. *Ailanthus* leaves all fallen.

30th. *Lonicera fragrantissima* commencing to flower.

The following presentations were announced :—

1. From Mr. Geard. A grey flying Opossum (*Belideus sciureus*), killed at Broadmarsh.

2. From Mrs. Lamb, Jerusalem. A fine greenstone image of the Maori god "Tiki," from New Zealand.

3. From Mr. C. W. S. James. A nodule of limestone from a cavity in which a living frog was said to have been taken.

4. From Dr. Haast, Director of Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand. The caudal vertebræ of a moa (*Dinornis giganteus*).

5. From the author, the Rev. P. MacPherson, A.M., Sydney. "A Lecture on the Religion of the Aborigines of Australia."
6. From the Victorian Chamber of Commerce. A paper on Australian Wines, by Leo. Moonen.
7. From the New Zealand Institute. Transactions and Proceedings of the Institute, Vol. 15, 1882.

The attention of the meeting was called to a collection of beautifully preserved fossils from the Tertiary Beds at Table Cape, which had been forwarded by the owner, Mr. Tofft, for exhibition only.

Mr. F. ABBOTT read a paper entitled "Notes on New Plants introduced into the Royal Society's Gardens during 1882."

After the reading of this paper a long and interesting discussion ensued, in which Mr. C. H. Grant, Mr. E. D. Swan, Mr. Belstead, Mr. Abbott, and Mr. Barnard took part.

The Rev. J. WILKES SIMMONS remarked that on his recent visit to Sydney he had sought information as to the newly-formed Geographical Society of Australasia, referred to at last meeting, and read the following note on the subject:—"The objects of the Geographical Society of Australasia are scientific, commercial, and educational. The first point embraces the exploration of unknown and imperfectly known parts of Australasia; the second, the study of the natural and artificial products of various countries and their industries; and the third, the promotion of the knowledge of physical, commercial, and political geography amongst all classes by means of illustrated public lectures and various publications. This scheme includes the collection of information for the compilation of a reliable geography of Australasia. It is intended that the society shall consist of honorary, corresponding, and ordinary members. The first, persons who have rendered valuable services in the cause of geographical science; the second, residents of Australasia elected for their promotion of the interests of the society. Any lady or gentleman may become an ordinary member, subject to election. Colonies joining in the movement are styled provinces—thus: 'the province of New South Wales,'—and three members from each associated province have seats at the Board of the General Council. The members of the society in any associated province may elect a local committee. Reports of the transactions of the society will be published, including reports from local committees."

Votes of thanks having been accorded to Mr. Abbott and the Rev. J. W. Simmons for their communications, the proceedings closed with a similar acknowledgment to the donors of presentations.

JULY, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 10th July, T. Stephens, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

The hon. secretary, Mr. Barnard, called attention to the following returns for the month of June, viz. :—

1. Visitors to Museum :—

On Sundays, 1,185; on week days, 934; total, 2,119.

2. Ditto to Gardens, total, 3,696.

3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens :—

From Mr. A. Wilson, Dunedin, one box of New Zealand ferns.

From Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, 100 plants, (various).

From Col. Crawford, Castra, seeds of *Poirrea Doccinza*.

From Mr. J. Smith, Victoria, 9 plants.

From Mr. Owen Meredith, seedlings of Douglas River pine.

4. Plants, etc., sent from Gardens :—

To Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, a collection of seeds.